KOTOMI...
I'M STILL LOOKING TO YOU FROM AFAR TODAY... LIKE I USED TO DO.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES...
IT MUST BE THE HABIT.
I'LL NEVER STOP WATCHING YOU EVEN WHEN THINGS HAVE CHANGED SO MUCH.
EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT NOW.
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU NOW...
YOU LOOK AT ME BACK.
AND IF I SMILE TO YOU...

YOU SMILE TO ME TOO.
THAT BEAUTIFUL SMILE...
I WAS SO LONG LOOKING FOR.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?

Cross Heart
SOMEDAY
AH...
NOW
TWO YEARS.
NO ONE'S LOOKING.

HARU, YOU'RE DOING IT AGAIN.
STOP SPYING ON HER, NOBODY'S GOING TO STEAL HER FROM YOU.
W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
I'M NOT SPYING ON HER!
YEAH, SURE
IT'S JUST THAT...
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS...
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE THAT HAPPENED WHEN KOTOMI FINALLY DECIDED TO OPEN HER HEART TO ME.
SHE'S SOOO CUTE I CAN'T STOP LOOKING AT HER!
IS THAT A PHOTO?

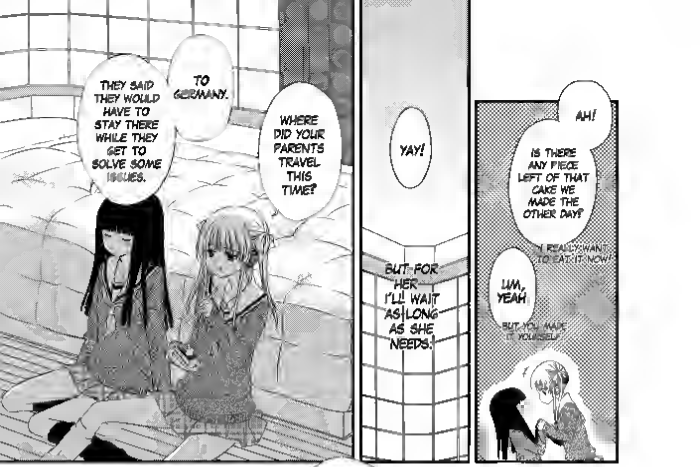
SINCE WE STARTED BEING...
MORE THAN JUST FRIENDS
LIFE IS UNFAIR.
WHAT'S THE MATTER NOW?
UGH
THIS TOTALLY SUCKS!!
WHY ARE YOU SHOUTING, IKUYO?
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON BACK THERE?!
THIS IS NOT A MARKET!!
URG
COME BACK WHEN YOU LEARN TO BEHAVE YOURSELF!
WHAT THE...
THOUGH WE ARE THE SAME AGE AND STUDY AT THE SAME SCHOOL... WE ALWAYS END UP IN SEPARATED CLASSROOMS.
WHY ARE WE SO UNLUCKY?

KOTOMI~
DON'T TELL ME YOU GOT KICKED OUT OF CLASS AGAIN...
I COULD HEAR THE YELLING FROM HERE.
WHOA, WHAT A FUSS
THAT WASN'T REALLY NECESSARY
HARU?
!
U-UM...
YOU'RE RIGHT... I'M SORRY
-
AH, NOT HERE. SOMEONE COULD SEE US!
B-BESIDES I NEED TO GET BACK TO CLASS.
?
AH, SO IT WAS MY FAULT. YOU GOT SCOLDED BECAUSE YOU WERE THINKING OF ME.
I'LL BE THE CULPRIT OF HARU'S EDUCATION FAILURE. I WON'T BE ABLE TO CARRY ON WITH THAT ON MY SOULDERS.
NO, NO-NO! IT'S JUST THAT TEACHER REALLY DISLIKES ME!
HARU..
IT'S JUST THAT— WHEN I SEE YOU I FORGET EVERYTHING ELSE.
I ONLY THINK OF YOU... I ONLY CARE ABOUT YOU—

KOTOMI CHANGED A LOT IN THIS TIME... FOR THE BETTER, OF COURSE.
I..!
JUST KIDDING.
THAT'S WHY WE RARELY CAN MEET WHILE BEING AT SCHOOL.
SEE YOU AFTER CLASSES HAVE ENDED
DON'T FORGET IT..
BUT WE MEET AT HER PLACE AT EVENING, SINCE HER PARENTS ARE ALWAYS TRAVELLING.
SHE HAS BECOME A SOCIAL PERSON, AND NOW IS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF HER CLASS, AND A MEMBER OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

SOMETIMES, WHEN I START THINKING THOROUGHLY ABOUT IT... I GET SAD
KOTOMI HAS ALWAYS BEEN ALONE.
SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY SUPPORT, NOT EVEN WHEN THAT HAPPENED
HARU
I ALSO THINK ABOUT ALL THE THINGS I'D LIKE TO DO BY HER SIDE
HM?
ARE YOU OKAY?
YOUR FACE IS RED
AH, I'M FINE.
MN!
IT'S OKAY IF I KISS YOU NOW, RIGHT?
NO ONE CAN SEE US.
I JUST WANT TO BE WITH YOU..
-
FEEL YOU CLOSER TO ME

A LOT OF THINGS HAVE CHANGED
HOWEVER...
MM
MMN
MN
HAH
THERE'S STILL A BARRIER...
-
-
THAT WE'VE BEEN UNABLE TO OVERCOME.
WE NEVER GET TO THE NEXT STEP.
KOTOMI AND I ALWAYS KISS... AND THAT'S ALL.


THEY SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO STAY THERE WHILE THEY GET TO SOLVE SOME ISSUES.
TO GERMANY.
WHERE DID YOUR PARENTS TRAVEL THIS TIME?
YAY!
BUT FOR HER I'LL WAIT AS LONG AS SHE NEEDS.
AH!
IS THERE ANY P'IECE LEFT OF THAT CAKE WE MADE THE OTHER DAY?
I REALLY WANT TO EAT IT NOW!
UM, YEAH.
BUT YOU MADE IT YOURSELF!

I WANT THEM TO SEE HOW MUCH I'VE GROWN UP, AND HOW I'M ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
THAT'S WHY I'M GONNA KEEP TRYING HARDER EVERYDAY TO IMPROVE MYSELF, SO THEY WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
KOTOMI
...

I SOMEHOW UNDERSTOOD THAT HER PARENTS STARTED TO IGNORE HER AFTER "THAT", AND AS YEARS WENT BY, THEIR RELATIONSHIP KEPT GETTING WORSE, TO THE POINT AN IMPASSABLE ABYSS WAS CREATED BETWEEN THEM.

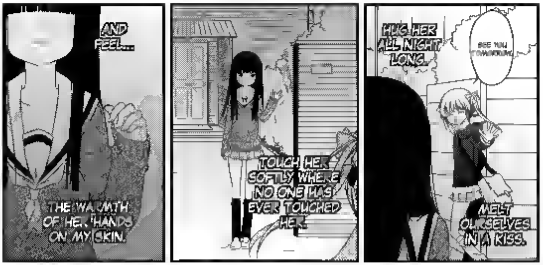
TELL ME THAT AT LEAST THEY'RE CALLING YOU.
YEAH, WELL, ONCE IN A WHILE.
I GET THEY'RE BUSY, SO THEY CAN'T BE THINKING ABOUT ME ALL THE TIME.

AND EVEN SO, SHE...
MAYBE THIS WAY DAD WILL BE PROUD OF ME AGAIN SOMEDAY
AND MOM WILL HUG ME AGAIN, LIKE SHE DID WHEN I WAS A CHILD
SHE WAS STILL WAITING FOR THEM, AS A GOOD DAUGHTER.
YOU'RE STILL A CHILD.
...!
EVEN WHEN YOU SAY YOU HAVE GROWN UP TO THE POINT YOU CAN ALREADY TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
HARU...
DEEP INSIDE... YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CHILD THAT KEEPS WAITING FOR HER PARENTS TO COME BACK HOME.
IT CAN'T BE NICE TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME ALL BY YOURSELF IN THIS EMPTY HOUSE.
AT NIGHT... YOU MIGHT FEEL SO LONELY
HUH?
NOT ANY-MORE.

IT'S TRUE THAT AT NIGHT, WHEN I'M ALL ALONE IN MY ROOM...
AND THE NIGHT-MARES COME BACK...
I FEEL LIKE I COULD FALL FOREVER IN THE DARK ABYSS OF MY MEMORIES ON ANY MOMENT.
I LOOK AROUND AND FEEL LIKE THE DARKNESS IS TRYING TO SWALLOW ME UP.
AND NOTHING I COULD HOLD OF
AND THERE'S NOBODY
SOON I REALIZE... THAT IT'S BECAUSE THAT PERSON IS THINKING ABOUT ME TOO.
BECAUSE EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT WITH ME IN THE DARKNESS... I KNOW YOU'LL BE BY MY SIDE TOMORROW.
BUT THEN I CLOSE MY EYES, AND ONLY ONE PERSON COMES TO MY MIND, ALONG WITH AN ENDLESS STREAM OF BRILLIANT MEMORIES.

TO BRING LIGHT TO MY LIFE
HARU...
HM?
..BE BY MY SIDE TOMORROW TOO?
WILL YOU ..
OF COURSE I WILL.
TOMORROW AND FOREVER.
U-UM.
AND IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU FALL.
I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE TO GIVE YOU A HAND WHEN YOU NEED IT
BUT... IT WOULD BE GREAT... IF WE WERE ADULTS ALREADY.
EH?

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT?
WITH NO NEED OF PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED SCHEDULES TO SEE YOU.
WITH NO BARRIERS STOPPING US FROM MEETING AND KISSING WHENEVER WE'D FEEL LIKE IT.
WITHOUT ANY KIND OF RULE.
...
LIVE... TOGETHER?
YES!
WE COULD...
LIVE TOGETHER.
CAN YOU IMAGINE? IF THAT WISH CAME TRUE...
SOME-DAY...
SO HARU THINKS ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT...
SLEEP... TOGETHER.
AH, I'M SORRY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS THINKING!
I SAID LOTS OF SILLY THINGS, DIDN'T I?
...
AND WE COULD SLEEP TOGETHER...
EVEN IN THE DARKNESS, I...
HARU..?


AND FEEL...
THE WARMTH OF HER HANDS ON MY SKIN.
TOUCH HER SOFTLY WHERE NO ONE HAS EVER TOUCHED HER.
HUG HER ALL NIGHT LONG.
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
MELT OURSELVES IN A KISS.

THOSE KIND OF THOUGHTS.. COME TO MY MIND SOMETIMES.

I CAN SEE THE LIGHT AT THE END...
BUT I JUST CAN'T REACH IT, NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY.
BUT I JUST SEE IT KIND OF
DISTANT
IT FEELS LIKE I'M LOST IN AN ENDLESS, DARK PASSAGE.
HARU,
LET'S GO EAT SOMETHING TOGETHER.

WE BARELY SPEND TIME TOGETHER LATELY
AW, YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
I ALSO WANT TO SEE YOU, Y'KNOW?
IT'S NOT LIKE I MISS YOU OR ANYTHING.
SILLY, I'M RIGHT HERE NOW.
EH?
IT HAS TO BE THIS EVENING?
I ALREADY ACCORDED TO MEET WITH SOMEONE
ALI, ALI, ALI!
DON'T PLAY DUMB! YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN!
WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
UGH..
MONSTER.
OF COURSE WE'RE FRIENDS!
DON'T EVEN DOUBT IT
T-THEN ..
TSE...
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?
H-W-RUDE...

THERE'S THIS NEW COFFEE SHOP IN MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD...
YAY!
ALRIGHT, BUT JUST FOR A WHILE.
YOU KNOW I HAVE A DATE.
...
BUT...
DON'T WORRY, MY TREAT
HUH? BUT I DON'T HAVE MONEY RIGHT NOW
WHAT IS... THIS FEELING?
IT'S SOMETHING I'VE NEVER FELT BEFORE...
THERE'S THIS PAIN SQUEEZING TIGHTLY MY CHEST... IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE CRYING.
AND I DON'T LIKE IT.
I WANT TO RUN TOWARDS HALUKI SIDE, AND SAY OPENLY WHAT I TRULY FEEL FOR HER.
BECAUSE WE'RE NOT JUST FRIENDS, EVEN IF IT LOOKS LIKE IT.
WE'RE NOT.
MAYBE THAT WAY I COULD STOP FEELING THIS FEAR CONSUMING MY INSIDES.

HARU...!
THIS MUST BE THAT THING CALLED...
JEALOUSY.
HARU
HARU...
...
Bip
Bip
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!!
KOTOMI?
!
HEY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
COME FAST.
?
HAH HAH
HARU, WHERE ARE YOU?
COFF

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
HAH HAH
COF
?
I DON'T KNOW.. I WAS JUST PASSING BY..
KOTO-MI!!
YOU CAN GO NOW, THANKS
FINE.
KOTO-MI..
..
KOTO-MI.
IT LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS FEELING SICK.
AND WHEN I APPROACHED TO HELP HER, SHE GOT REALLY NERVOUS.
THAT BOY WASN'T GOING TO MAKE ANY HARM TO YOU!
NO ..!
KOTOMI!
STOP IT!

A SCAR?
WHAT...?
DON'T LOOK!
WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE IT SOONER?
SHE ALWAYS COVERS IT WITH A WRISTBAND.
AH, THAT WRIST..
AND I FELT A HEAVY GUILT AFTER THAT, I FELT LIKE I HAD TO APOLOGIZE FOR SOMETHING I COULDN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND
...
I HADN'T BEEN REALLY CONSCIOUS OF HOW MUCH KOTOMI HAD SUFFERED, UNTIL THAT DAY.
NEITHER HOW MUCH HER MEMORIES WERE STILL TORMENTING HER.

I HURT THE PERSON I LOVED THE MOST.
I FELT LIKE... SOMEHOW...
HARU, DINNER'S READY!
I'M NOT HUNGRY, THANKS
I'LL SAVE IT FOR LATER.
I WOULD NEVER WANT TO HURT.
I'VE DONE SUCH AN HORRIBLE THING.
I THINK I'VE BEEN UNDERESTIMATING THIS ISSUE DURING ALL THESE LAST YEARS...
AND BECAUSE OF THAT AND NOT KNOWING HOW TO MANAGE IT CORRECTLY, I ENDED UP HURTING THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD...
HOW COULD I MISS SOMETHING OF SUCH IMPORTANCE? IS IT IS THAT SCAR ON HER SKIN?
brr
brr
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH SHE TRIES TO FORGET THOSE MEMORIES...
THEY'RE ALWAYS COMING BACK.

THEY ALWAYS COME BACK...
OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
WHAT AM I DOING HERE REGRETING WHILE SHE NEEDS ME MORE THAN EVER?
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT
FORGIVE ME FOR NOT REALIZING YOUR SUFFERING SOONER.
MY OWN HAPPINESS BLURRED MY VISION, AND DIDN'T LET ME SEE THE REALITY.
THINGS WEREN'T GOING AS SMOOTHLY AS I THOUGHT AT FIRST.
THIS TIME I WASN'T ABLE TO HOLD YOUR HAND BEFORE THE FALL.
THAT'S WHY...
NOW...

KOTOMI
I WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE IN THE DARKNESS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUTSIDE?
IT'S COLD HERE.
I GOT SCARED OF MY ROOM.
I DON'T KNOW.
I GUESS I WAS EXPECTING YOU WOULD COME, SOMEHOW.
AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GO.
ALL OF A SUDDEN ...

THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FILL THAT HOLE IN MY HEART...
IS HARU.
...
BECAUSE, EVEN I WERE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE, I'LL ALWAYS FEEL LONELY.

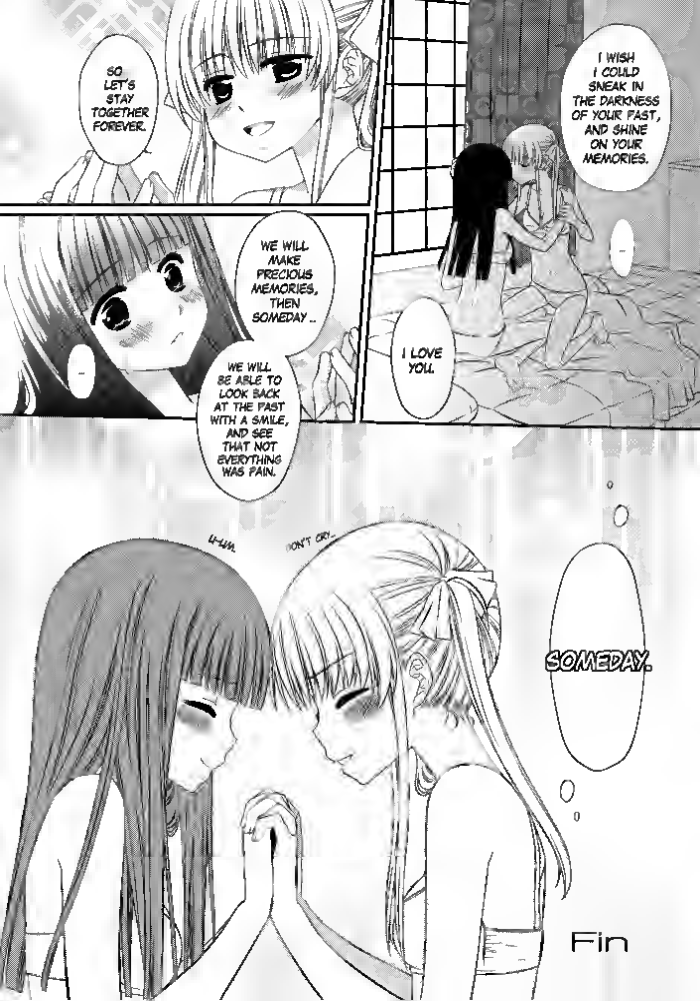
I WANT ALL OF HARU.
..
THE WARMTH OF HER VOICE, THE LIGHT OF HER SMILE.
HER EYES, HER LIPS
THE SOFTNESS OF THOSE HANDS ON MY SKIN
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO WEAK.
THESE WEAKNESSES ALWAYS END UP HURTING YOU.
PLEASE, STAY WITH ME TONIGHT.
IF I DON'T FACE MY FEARS...
COULD YOU... SAVE ME FROM THE DARKNESS ONCE AGAIN?
I'M SO SORRY...

THEY WILL NEVER LET ME ADVANCE.
THIS SCAR ON MY WRIST IS LIKE A PROOF OF MY PAST
NOW EVERY-THING'S DIFFERENT
AND I WON'T BE A BURDEN FOR YOU ANYMORE.
I WANT TO KEEP WALKING FORWARD, AND BECOME STRONGER.
THAT WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU TOO
SOMETHING I CAN NO LONGER CHANGE.
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW WEAK I GOT TO BE
IN THAT MOMENT I REALLY WISHED TO QUIT LIVING, BUT..
I LOVE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE.
DIDN'T YOU REALIZE THAT YET?
DON'T SAY THAT I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU AS A BURDEN
YOUR HAPPINESS MEANS MY HAPPINESS TOO.
I'LL JUST SMILE FOR BOTH OF US UNTIL YOU FEEL LIKE DOING IT AGAIN.
AND IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE SMILING, THEN JUST DON'T DO IT.

THANK YOU.
HEY, I JUST SAID YOU DON'T HAVE TO SMILE IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.
BUT I DO NOW!
KOTOMI?
?
COME.
W-W-W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
..!

AND IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN BY MY SIDE ALL THIS TIME.
CAN YOU HEAR IT?
thump
thump
IF IT'S WITH YOU... I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY.
IT DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE.
LET'S FACE THOSE FEARS TOGETHER.
SO WE CAN KEEP WALKING FORWARD TOGETHER.
WHEN I'M WITH YOU... ALL MY FEARS AND INSECURITIES GO AWAY
HARU...
TOWARDS A BRILLIANT FUTURE WHERE PAIN DOESN'T EXIST
MY SWEET HARU.

I DIDN'T NOTICE SOONER... BUT NOW I KNOW...
THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE LOOK LIKE TWO COMMON FRIENDS IN OTHER PEOPLE'S EYES.
WHAT REALLY MATTERS HERE, IS WHAT WE FEEL FOR EACH OTHER.
THOSE BEAUTIFUL FEELINGS WE SHARE
IN A WORLD WITH NO PLACE FOR ANYBODY ELSE.
HARU?
WHERE ONLY YOU AND I EXIST.


I WISH I COULD SNEAK IN THE DARKNESS OF YOUR PAST, AND SHINE ON YOUR MEMORIES.
I LOVE YOU.
WE WILL MAKE PRECIOUS MEMORIES, THEN SOMEDAY..
WE WILL BE ABLE TO LOOK BACK AT THE PAST WITH A SMILE, AND SEE THAT NOT EVERYTHING WAS PAIN.
SO, LET'S STAY TOGETHER FOREVER.
U-UH.
DON'T CRY.
SOMEDAY.
Fin